

SUMMARY OF ROUND 2 “SUPERFUND REFORMS” (February 1995)

On February 13, 1995, Elliot Laws, Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) announced the 2nd round of "Superfund Administrative Reforms." This second set of reforms was intended to improve the Superfund program while EPA waits for Congressional action on a new law. These reforms consist of twelve initiatives, encompassing six general areas: enforcement, economic redevelopment, community involvement and outreach, environmental justice, consistent program implementation, and State and Tribal empowerment. These new reforms followed the closeout of the 1st round of reforms launched in June 1993.

Some highlights of the twelve initiatives include: facilitating PRP searches, fostering expedited settlements, implementing Brownfields initiatives, issuing guidance on community advisory groups and technical assistance grants, issuing soil screening guidance and issuing guidance which promotes State/Tribal voluntary cleanup programs.

On February 14, 1995, EPA released the National Implementation Strategy for Superfund Administrative Reforms. This detailed national implementation strategy was developed by EPA Headquarters, the Regions and other Federal agencies. It identifies major milestones, leads and timeframes for each initiative. The Superfund Reforms Semi-Annual Report, FY 1995, issued on March 13, 1996, summarizes the objectives, status, and next steps for each of the twelve initiatives between February 13, 1995, and December 31, 1995.

The accomplishments for the 2nd round of reforms are highlighted in the Scorecard and the current annual report.